

# Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

## 1/5/2024

**Special  
Olympics  
Maryland**



### Contents

- Welcome
- [Shout out a volunteer](#)- **UPDATED**
- [Plunge and Dunk Reminder- Sign Up Your Teams](#)- **NEW**
- [2024 SOMD Winter Games Updates](#) - **NEW**
- [GMS Clean-Up – Games from 2016-2018 To Be Archived and Deleted on 01/15/2024](#) - **NEW**
- [T2025 – 2025 World Winter Games in Torino – SOMD Athlete Nominees](#) - **NEW**
- [Garrett County Elementary Schools add Unified Sports](#)- **NEW**
- [Area Program Sport & Activity Information Form](#)
- [Area Program Fundraising Info Form](#)
- [Finance Corner](#)- **UPDATED**
- [Donation Information Corner](#)
- [Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars](#) - **UPDATED**
- [Sports Department Contacts – Assigned Sports](#) - **UPDATED**
- [Questions?](#)

### Welcome

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and that 2024 is off to a great start!

If there are any members of your area's leadership who are not currently receiving the Area Memo, [please fill out this form](#)

### Shout out a volunteer

This memo's shout outs go to...

Rich Domros for his leadership and support of our regional and state bowling championships! Thank you, Rich!

Shannon Strong, Megan Shaffer, and team for planning a great ESPY Awards for Frederick! Sorry that the weather didn't cooperate, but we're looking forward to a great event on the rescheduled date!

Trish Miles, Scott Geist, and Jeff LaManca coordinating a great MedFest for our athletes in Prince George's County Schools!

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LV88QG9>

### Plunge and Dunk Reminder- Sign Up Your Teams

Between now and the end of the month, many people will be looking to make year-end donations. This is a great opportunity to recruit people for your Plunge and Dunk Teams. If you haven't already set up Area Program teams for Plunge or Dunk, please visit [www.PlungeMD.com](http://www.PlungeMD.com) or [www.DunkMD.com](http://www.DunkMD.com) . If you need any assistance setting up your team pages, please contact Jeff (jabel@somd.org) .

## **(NEW) 2024 SOMD Winter Games Updates**

We're looking forward to an exciting winter sports training season and an even more exciting Winter Games. Here are a few updates:

1. **Event Guide (Preliminary Draft)** – We have posted a *preliminary draft* of the 2024 Winter Games Event Guide Winter Games Coach Resource Page (CRP). The information in this preliminary draft should be considered “tentative” but this will provide helpful information for planning purposes, informing athletes/coaches/families of event basics, etc.. Please feel free to share this reference with other prospective delegation members and interested parties. The “final” version of the WG Event Guide will be posted at the same location by February 12.
  - a. Main CRP (*all sport-specific and event-specific CRPs are accessible from this main site*): <https://www.somd.org/coach-resources/>
  - b. Winter Games CRP: <https://www.somd.org/coach-resources/winter-games-coach-resource/>
2. **Winter Games Is Open in GMS** – Thank you to everyone for completing their training registrations by the Thursday evening deadline. We've advanced into Winter Games 2024 everyone listed as participating in training for either Alpine Skiing or Snowshoeing. You likely have also already received an email from Dottie Rush regarding who has been advanced and any issues with missing forms – which are due by January 15, 2024. You will receive a separate message from Elizabeth Kramer or Casey Collins regarding coaches who have an issue with their Sport Coach certification for their respective sport (once we know who all the coaches are).

Your GMS person can access the games in GMS and should do the following as soon as possible so that we can be sure that everyone is included in the appropriate communications:

- A. Designate who is serving as the **Head of Delegation** and who is the **Head Coach** for each of the sports in which you have competitors
- B. *Make sure that each person has the correct role indicated for them*, most particularly your head coaches, general coaches and assistant coaches (people were advanced with whatever role that had most recently in the overall training games in GMS, which may not have been as a coach).

Your GMS person should also complete the following by the Competition Registration Deadline (Monday, February 5):

1. Delete anyone in your delegation who is currently listed in Winter Games but who will not actually be attending Winter Games.
2. For each Athlete and Unified® Partner, enter them in the events in which your coaches expect that they will compete at Winter Games.
  - a. Do NOT enter them into any of the “time trial” events – SOMD will handle that
  - b. Do NOT enter an entry score – that will be captured at the required time trials which will be held on-site at Winter Games (mostly on Sunday of the Games)
  - c. For any Unified teams and Relay Teams:
    - i. Create the team using the XX-Lname1/Lname2/Lname3/Lname4 standard format for naming such teams
    - ii. Add the competitors to their respective teams
  - d. Coaches will be able to adjust levels and events to some degree as the Winter Games approach as well as on-site following the time trials (since conditions and slopes can have a significant impact on which events work best for a given competitor)
3. You will NOT be able to add anyone to your Winter Games delegation in GMS (*your GMS credentials do not permit you to do that*).

3. **Opening Ceremony: Banner Carriers** - The Winter Games Management Team (GMT) is asking for each Area Program attending the Winter Games to submit the two individuals who will represent the Area Program during the Opening Ceremony. These two individuals (*and only two* individuals) will need to report early to a location near, or within the McHenry Lodge to check-in for the representative parade of delegations. These individuals will be carrying in the banner that represents each Area Program. Please send an email with your Area name, the names of the two (2) individuals and their roles (Athlete, Unified® Partner, etc.) to Steve Bennett via email at: [sbennett@somd.org](mailto:sbennett@somd.org) **no later than 1:00pm February 12, 2024.**
4. **Opening Ceremony: Oaths, Pledge of Allegiance, Torch** - The Winter Games Management Team (GMT) is asking for Area Programs that are interested in nominating individuals (athletes or coaches) for the following opportunities for the Opening Ceremony at Winter Games:
  - a. Athlete Oath (*athlete*)
  - b. Coaches Oath (*must be a fully certified/credentialed coach for their sport*)
  - c. Pledge of Allegiance (*athlete*)
  - d. Torch Bearer (*athlete*)

NOTE: These individuals will need to be in attendance for the Games and arrive early to the Opening Ceremony. They will be seated on the Opening Ceremony stage, not with the rest of their delegation. These cannot be the same people you have designated as a banner carrier.

Please send an email with your Area name, the names of the nominees and their roles (Athlete, Unified® Partner, etc.) and the Opening Ceremony role for which you are nominating them to Steve Bennett via email at: [sbennett@somd.org](mailto:sbennett@somd.org) **no later than 1:00pm February 12, 2024.**

**(NEW) GMS Clean-Up – Games from 2016-2018 To Be Archived and Deleted on 01/15/2024**

On Monday, January 15, 2024, we will be doing some clean-up of GMS to make searches easier (and potentially quicker). Most notably we will be archiving and then deleting ALL games from 2016 through 2018. The archive will be available in case it is necessary for us to access the info from any of these games. No changes will be made at this time for any games from 2019 (*the last complete pre-pandemic year*) through to the present day.

We *will NOT* delete any of the “census games” or “training registration games” which will remain available to all GMS users (similar to what is currently available for 2012-2015).

We’re giving you this “heads up” so you are not surprised when we make the change. Also, if there is some reason that you would want to print or export any information from those earlier games before we execute the archive/deletion. (*Note: To date no one has ever requested access to any of the previously archived games which stretch back to 1999 – so we don’t anticipate this causing any inconvenience for Area programs.*)

**(NEW) T2025 – 2025 World Winter Games in Torino – SOMD Athlete Nominees**

We are thrilled to share the names of the four (4) SOMD athletes who have been nominated to the Special Olympics USA team for the 2025 World Winter Games in Torino, Italy (March, 2025)

Alpine

Male Intermediate Level Skier: Ralph Gemmill (*from Baltimore County*)

Female Advanced Level Skier: Claire Potter (*from Baltimore County*)

Snowshoeing

Female Level Two Snowshoer: Elaina Camacho (*from Anne Arundel County*)

Female Level Two Snowshoer: Candi Blessing (*from Washington County*)

These four exceptional athletes will be considered “nominees” to the SO USA team until some point after the USA Team Trials which will be held sometime in April of this year.

We are very proud of these amazing athletes who look forward to this opportunity to represent their country in Italy in 2025.

***(NEW) Garrett County Schools add Elementary School Unified Sports***

Congratulations to our coaches and student-athletes in Garrett County Schools who are the first in the state to offer elementary school unified sports! This program brought together students as young as 4 years old representing their schools for fun competition with an exciting culminating competition held at Garrett College in December! If you are an educator interested in adding unified sports to your school, please email [ucs@somd.org](mailto:ucs@somd.org)

***Area Program Sport & Activity Information Form***

To more effectively capture the many programs and activities taking place in the community, we have put together a Training Program Information Form.

This form will help our state office stay more organized with up-to-date information on what programs are happening, where they're happening, and when they are happening.

Please submit 1 form for each sport/activity from your program using the link below:

<https://wkf.ms/3Kqg0Zp>

To avoid duplicate submissions, Coaches, Sport Volunteers, and Sport Coordinators, please work with your Area Leadership on submitting this form as they may have done so already.

We ask that this is submitted by the registration deadline during each sport season.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Abel ([jabel@somd.org](mailto:jabel@somd.org)).

***Area Program Fundraiser Info Form***

As we discussed in our Area Director meeting and on Monday's call, we'd like to get a better idea of the many fundraisers taking place around the state in support of Special Olympics Maryland. This will also help us advertise your events while also consolidating state office requests for credit card machines, Classy Pages, and more.

[Moving forward, please fill out this form when you are planning a fundraiser.](#)

***(Updated) Finance Corner***

Attached please find the Chart of Accounts for the Fiscal Year 2024.

If there is a code you use that is not on this list, please contact Joanne. Several codes have been retired due primarily to redundancy. The finance team works hard at streamlining processes to make them efficient and simpler. Accounts highlighted in yellow are new in 2024. Over the next few weeks Joanne will be checking both Truist and Sage to retire any old accounts.

If you have any questions about this list, please reach out to Joanne. Any old account lists that you may have been using as a reference can be discarded.

### Donation Information Corner

1. **Area Donation Tracking Link:** please use this link to provide information to SOMD about any anticipated gifts that may come directly to the SOMD office or bank account:

[Area Donation Tracking Report](#)

2. **Private Donation Link for Honor/Memorial Donations and specific gifts from donors:** If you have an individual donor or sponsor that has reached out to you and wants to make a donation to support your program directly, or if you would like to include a link for memorial donations, you can provide this PRIVATE donation link, but please remember, **this link cannot be included on your local area website or sent out as an email blast**. Please encourage donors to fill out the “Direct My Gift to” dropdown in the form.

[Private Giving Link Request](#)

3. **Stock Giving Option:** please provide the information below to anyone who would like to make a gift of stock to your local area program. You can also notify SOMD that a gift is coming to support your program by adding this information to the [Area Donation Tracking Report](#).

To make a gift of stock, please share this information with your financial advisor:

Morgan Stanley LLC  
DTC #0015

For the benefit of Special Olympics Maryland/633-117478

c/o: Morgan Stanley  
650 S. Exeter Street, Suite 1100  
Baltimore, MD 21202

4. **Matching Gifts:** Many companies generously offer to match their employees’ charitable contributions. Some even provide matching funds to support employee volunteer hours. Most of these programs match contributions dollar for dollar, and some will even double or triple the amount of your gift!

[Click Here](#) to enter your employer’s name to see if they participate in the matching gift program, and if they do, get a link to the matching donation page.

If you are aware of any matching gifts that may be coming in for your local area program, please notify SOMD that a gift is coming to support your program by adding this information to the [Area Donation Tracking Report](#)

### **(UPDATED) Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars**

The dates and time for Pre-Season webinars have been set for the upcoming seasons. Please share this info with your coaches and sports volunteers.

#### **Pre-Season Coaches Webinars** (slides from recorded sessions are available on the respective CRP)

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Registration / Recording Link</b>
Alpine Skiing	Tue, 11/14	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swlErWY-qLA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swlErWY-qLA</a>
Snowshoeing	Wed, 11/15	Recording: <a href="https://youtu.be/uLhrew2o8WU">https://youtu.be/uLhrew2o8WU</a>
Basketball	Thu, 11/16	Recording: <a href="https://youtu.be/JV4npXAvRu0">https://youtu.be/JV4npXAvRu0</a>

#### **Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars** (slides from recorded sessions are available on the respective CRP)

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Registration / Recording Link</b>
Alpine Skiing	Thu, 02/15 6:00-7:00pm	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdO2sqjMvHdH5izDtkgiUbiI5Rf2_GTu5">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdO2sqjMvHdH5izDtkgiUbiI5Rf2_GTu5</a>
Snowshoeing	Thu, 02/15 7:00-8:00pm	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAldu-orjsoEtXykkFdADw4oK5cDW65ox73">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAldu-orjsoEtXykkFdADw4oK5cDW65ox73</a>
Basketball	Wed, 03/27	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsdO2grTluHNyHb4aDijQFTOVhOn6UbfR0">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsdO2grTluHNyHb4aDijQFTOVhOn6UbfR0</a>

(5v5 Trad & Unif)	6:00-7:00pm	
Basketball (ISC, all 3v3, 5v5PDU)	Wed, 03/27 7:00-8:00pm	<a href="https://somed.zoom.us/join/https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlscO2rpzljGtRkJd3X4zqneBx-ccYB0No">https://somed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlscO2rpzljGtRkJd3X4zqneBx-ccYB0No</a>

**(UPDATED) Sports Department Contacts – Assigned Sports**

Your Area Director and Area Leadership should always be your first point of contact. However, should you have questions regarding a specific sport, coach education, or competition, please work with the corresponding Sport Director.

- **Melissa Anger, Senior Sports Director**

- [manger@somd.org](mailto:manger@somd.org), 410.242.1515 x122
 

Basketball	Soccer	<i>Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball,</i>
Cheerleading	Softball	<i>Cross Country Skiing, Pickleball</i>
Flag Football	Tennis	

- **Casey Collins, Sports Director**

- [ccollins@somd.org](mailto:ccollins@somd.org), 410.242.1515 x171
 

Athletics	Golf	<i>Locally Popular Sports: Dance,</i>
Bocce	Powerlifting	<i>Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey</i>
Distance Running	Snowshoeing	

- **Elizabeth Kramer, Sports Director**

- [ekramer@somd.org](mailto:ekramer@somd.org), 410.242.1515 x127
 

Alpine Skiing	Kayaking	<i>Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating,</i>
Bowling (10 pin)	Swimming	<i>Sailing, Short Track Speed Skating,</i>
Cycling		<i>Duckpin Bowling</i>

If you have questions regarding multi-sport events, or USA/World Games, please contact:

- **Steve Bennett, Senior Director, Competitions**

- [sbennett@somd.org](mailto:sbennett@somd.org), 410.242.1515 x102
 

Summer Games	Fall Sports Festival	USA Games
Winter Games		World Games

If you have questions regarding High School Unified® Sports (IUS) training and competition, please contact:

- **Zach Cintron, Senior Director, High School Unified® Sports**

- [zcintron@somd.org](mailto:zcintron@somd.org), 410.242.1515 x161
 

IUS Athletics (T&F)	IUS Indoor Bocce	IUS Tennis
IUS Outdoor Bocce	IUS Strength & Conditioning	IUS Flag Football

If you have questions regarding training/competition registration certifications or the processing of forms, please contact:

- **Dottie Rush, Registration Manager**

- [drush@somd.org](mailto:drush@somd.org), 410.242.1515 x111

Overall Sports Leadership (any sports/competition questions that aren't related to a specific sport)

- **Mike Czarnowsky, Vice President, Sports**

- [mczarnowsky@somd.org](mailto:mczarnowsky@somd.org), 410.241.6280

## Questions?

If You Have Any Questions on Any Other Non-Sports-Related Issues, please contact a member of the Local Programs Team

- **Jeff Abel, Vice President, Local Programs**
  - [jabel@somd.org](mailto:jabel@somd.org), 410-242-1515 ex. 121
  - Any general question
- **Melissa Kelly, Senior Director, Unified® Champion schools**
  - [mkelly@somd.org](mailto:mkelly@somd.org), 410-979-5839
  - Unified® Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement, Middle School Sports
- **Julie Martin, Manager, Unified Champion Schools**
  - [jmartin@somd.org](mailto:jmartin@somd.org)
  - Unified Champion Schools Grant, Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement
- **Jake Novick, Manager, Unified Recreation**
  - [jnovick@somd.org](mailto:jnovick@somd.org), 774-276-5861
  - College Unified Champion Schools Programs, Unified Intramurals, Community Unified Rec Options
- **Mackenzie Irvin, Senior Director, Inclusive Health & Fitness**
  - [mirvin@somd.org](mailto:mirvin@somd.org), 857-939-4867
  - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- **Kayla Shields, Director, Inclusive Health and Fitness**
  - [kshields@somd.org](mailto:kshields@somd.org), 410-404-4115
  - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs, Unified® Physical Education
- **Abi Bauman, Manager, Young Athletes Program**
  - [abauman@somd.org](mailto:abauman@somd.org), 802-881-4623
  - Young Athletes Program in school, community, and home
- **Sue Snyder, Unified® Physical Education Consultant**
  - [ssnyder@somd.org](mailto:ssnyder@somd.org)
  - Unified® Physical Education
- **Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director**
  - [sboyd@somd.org](mailto:sboyd@somd.org), 443-766-9245
  - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Mike Myers, Sr. Director, Area Programs**
  - [mmyers@somd.org](mailto:mmyers@somd.org), 443-799-5335
  - All Area Programs- Primary POC for BA, HO, MO, AA, SM, CH, CL
- **Horace Dickerson, Region Director- Metro Programs**
  - [hdickerson@somd.org](mailto:hdickerson@somd.org)
  - Baltimore City, Prince George's County
- **Allie Boyd, City Schools Coordinator**
  - [aboyd@somd.org](mailto:aboyd@somd.org), 223-848-1210
  - Baltimore City Schools APE Sports Program
- **Kyler Mellott, Region Director- East**
  - [kmellott@somd.org](mailto:kmellott@somd.org), 814-470-9474
  - Harford, Cecil, Kent, Upper Shore, Lower Shore
- **Matt Deal, Region Director- West**
  - [mdeal@somd.org](mailto:mdeal@somd.org), 240-329-1801
  - Carroll, Frederick, Washington Allegany, Garrett